



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Palouse
Ranger
District

1700 Hwy 6
Potlatch, ID 99347

File Code: 1950

Date: September 20, 2017

Route To: Palouse District Ranger
Interdisciplinary Team Members

Subject: Bluejacket Salvage and Reforestation CE

To: Interdisciplinary Team

This letter documents the initiation for an environmental analysis for the Bluejacket Salvage and Reforestation Project. This project is located in the Strychnine Creek sub-watershed and encompasses approximately 80 acres. I anticipate that this planning effort will be documented in a Categorical Exclusion (CE). I have selected you to assist me as part of an interdisciplinary team (IDT) to consider and analyze effects for management consideration. As we begin this project, I encourage all participants to keep an open mind and consider all resources equally.

IDT members for this project are as follows:

Team Leader	Jeff Chynoweth
Economics	Zach Wood
Engineering	Zoltan Kiss
Writer/Editor/Project Record/NEPA	Jeff Chynoweth
GIS Database	John Hutchison
Hydrology	Eric Crook
Soils	Eric Crook
Wildlife	Alyssa Fellow
Botany	Mike Hays
Fisheries	Dan Kenney
Cultural Resources	Robbin Johnston
Range/Noxious Weeds	Katie Howisey
Silviculture	Mandy Villwock
Fuels	Alan Carlson
Logging Systems	Miles Spong
Recreation	Shawn Dieterich

The purpose and need for the Bluejacket Salvage CE project is to salvage dead and dying trees resulting from the Strychnine Fire. One objective will be to optimize the economic value to support the local forest products industry and local economy by salvaging fire-killed and fire-injured trees from the landscape in a time-effective manner. Other objectives will include protecting the public from hazardous fire-killed trees and snags, slowing the spread of subsequent root disease infestations by revegetating severely burned areas with appropriate species.

Approximately 80 acres of potentially salvageable ground were identified by Timber staff. Only a portion of this acreage is being proposed for salvage under the Bluejacket Salvage project. The



project area is within Management Area (MA), E1 – Timber Production. E1 calls for providing optimum, sustained production of wood products. Timber production is to be cost effective and provide adequate protection of soil and water quality.

Preliminary issues I expect to be analyzed include; soils, water quality, wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species, noxious weeds and fuels treatments.

My expectation is to have our CE completed and Decision Memo ready for my signature by mid-December 2017.

There is limited time to schedule field visits to view post-fire effects in this area, however, GIS can be used for a preliminary understanding of the existing condition. Those who wish to should conduct your field review as soon as possible. Analysis will be documented on a checklist – I do not anticipate the need for ESA consultation for this project. The project area contains no live water.

I encourage you to use as much existing information as possible. The Clearwater Forest Plan and all subsequent amendments, agency manuals and policy, Federal and State laws, and many other documents are available for incorporation by reference and tiering. SO specialists not directly assigned to the team will also be available to provide you with guidance.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stefani Spencer

STEFANI SPENCER
District Ranger